



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/980,955	12/04/2001	Marc Ivor John Beale	MSL-1	3437

7590 02/24/2006
Ira S Dorman
Suite 200
330 Roberts Street
East Hartford, CT 06108

EXAMINER

MENGISTU, AMARE

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2673

DATE MAILED: 02/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/980,955

Applicant(s)

BEALE, MARC IVOR JOHN

Examiner

Amare Mengistu

Art Unit

2673

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jan.3,2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,6-9,11-14,17-20,22 and 25-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,6-9,11-14,17-20,22 and 25-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

1. Claims 1, 2, 3, 6-9, 12, 14, 16-20, 22, 25-33, 35-38 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Vayda et al (5,745,717)**.

2. As to claims 1, 22, 25, **Vayda et al (here in after Vayda)**, discloses a communication system comprising: means defining a communication region having associated therewith a plurality of symbols of the like (figs. 3-6, 8-11. For example see fig. 5 "EDIT, PRINT, TOOLS, SET-UP" (col. 6, lines 23-45) and being responsive to a user controlled pointing device (fig. 7 (713)) whereby a desired symbol or the like can be selected by detecting movement of the pointing device along a predetermined bearing with the communication region (col. 7, lines 9-34), the predetermined bearing being substantially parallel to a direction of the desired symbol of the like relative to a central region of the communication region within a tolerance determined by the angular separation of adjacent symbols (col. 7, lines 35-44, see where the symbols "EDIT, PRINT, TOOLS, SET-UP" are angularly separated).

3. As to claims 3, 6-8, **Vayda** discloses a plurality of symbol entry regions are provided each having associated therewith a plurality of symbols (fig. 5 EDIT, PRINT,

TOOLS, SET-UP) and each being responsive to the user-controlled pointing device whereby a desired symbol can be selected by movement of the pointing device along the predetermined bearing within the region with which the desired symbol is associated (see, col.7, lines 9-44).

4. As to claim 9, **Vayda** furthermore teaches two sets of communication regions are provided (for example see fig.5 (*EDIT, PRINT*)).

5. As to claims 12 and 31, **Vayda** teaches means is provided for selecting further symbols or the like by employing a different form of movement form that require to select from the basic symbols (see, col.15, lines 35-46 , col.16, lines 41-50, "using scrolling" , col.17, lines 15-67).

6. In regard to claims 13,14,31-33, **Vayda** the symbols or the like may be selected on the basis of the speed of movement of the pointing device (col.7, lines 35-44) or combination of movements (see, col.15, lines 35-46 , col.16, lines 41-50, "using scrolling" , col.17, lines 15-67). It is obvious that the selection is based on how fast you move the input device.

7. As to claims 16-18, 35-37, **Vayda** teaches that the combination movement includes a linear movement in a first direction that is and/or end thereof or reversing the first direction (for example see, fig.5. linear movement direction to select "EDIT" and

Art Unit: 2673

then in reverse direction to select "TOOL") or two sequential linear movements at a predetermined angle to each other (fig.11, two sequential linear movements "A" and "F").

As to claims 19 and 38, **Vayda** teaches that the region or the regions are touch screen (see, fig.7, col.16, lines 41-50).

As to claims 26,27,28,29, **Vayda** discloses having three communication regions, each regions having associated therewith a plurality of symbols (fig.11 "ABCDEF"; "GHIJK" etc.), a desired symbol or the like being selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol or the like associated therewith in a predetermined direction relative to the desired symbol or the like (for example in fig.11 symbols "A", "B", "C" or "D" can be selected within the region).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Vayda** in view of **Kinawi et al** (6,545,669)

As to claims 11 and 30, **Vayda** also discloses means is provided for selecting a further symbol or the like arranged within an area encompassed by each region (see, fig.11 (ABCDF), col.10, lines 30-42). **Vayda** did not expressly detailed the selection is

done by **tapping** the area within the desired region. However, the patent of **Kinawi et al** clearly states that it is well known for touch screen display system to select symbols by tapping the desired region (see, col.2, lines 7-20, col.5, lines 51-63).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have been motivated to substitute **Kinawi et al's** tapping method of selecting an object with **Vayda's** system of selection system because this is an alternative a simple and easy method to select an object when using a touch screen display.

Response to Arguments


10. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1,6-9,11-14,17-20,22,25-38 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amare Mengistu whose telephone number is (703)305-4880. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, T-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala can be reached on (703) 305-4938. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2673

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Amare Mengistu
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2673

A.M
Jan. 22, 2006